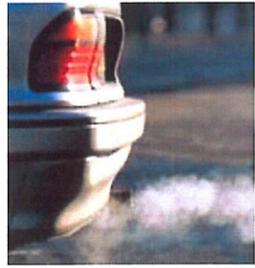


# Transit Service Benefits



## Better Air to Breathe

Air pollution in Mesquite is principally caused by automobile and truck exhausts. Citizens who use transit services reduce their carbon footprint and improve the air quality.

## Better Health

A 2010 study done for the American Public Transportation Association found that people who live in communities that offer high-quality transit services drive less, get more exercise, live longer, and are in better overall health than communities that lack public transportation.



## Economic Development

In these tough economic times, new economic development is focused along transit lines. The term "transit oriented development" or "TOD" has been coined to describe this phenomenon. Cities with transit stations have experienced significant growth around these stations, adding both sales and property tax revenue.

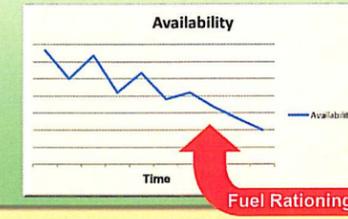
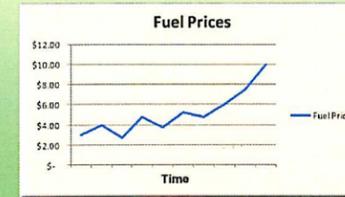
Per a 2003 economic study in Dallas, the residential property values near transit stations have increased an average of 39% and the commercial property values have increased 53% from 1997 to 2001.

The increased tax revenue generated by increased property values enables city government and school districts to hold the line on property tax rates while delivering essential city services, infrastructure improvements and high quality education to its citizens.



## Less Dependence on Fossil Fuels

Fossil fuels are finite. Eventually the fuel supply will decrease, driving up the price of a gallon of fuel above \$4.00. Such an increase in fuel prices should be expected in the next 5 to 10 years, or sooner, if the economy recovers.



## Improved Mobility for Aged

Our population is aging and living longer. Living longer is bittersweet if we lose our mobility. As drivers age, their vision worsens and their reaction time lengthens. Robust transit services enable our senior citizens to shed their cars and the associated upkeep costs while maintaining the ability to travel to a store, doctor's office, restaurant, movie theater, or friend or relative's home.



## Individual Savings

A 2010 study done for the American Public Transportation Association found that Dallasites who routinely use transit save **\$8,895** annually on their transportation costs. These savings come from the reduced use or elimination of an automobile from the family budget and avoidance of parking fees.

## Relaxing Commute

People who use public transportation can forget about traffic and relax on their way to work. Many commuters catch a nap, read a book, work on their laptop, put on their makeup, or talk on the phone while riding a bus or train.

